

THE
BRAVE
AND THE
DAMNED

4

ALL-ACTION ISSUES EVERY MONTH

★ No. 77 **BOMB-RUN**

It took split-second timing—and courage beyond the call of duty

★ No. 78 **A TRUCE WITH DEATH**

They were strange allies—banded together in a fight for survival

★ No. 79 **UNKNOWN HERO**

He made a lone stand—against authority—and the brutal enemy

★ No. 80 **FLAME OF ANGER**

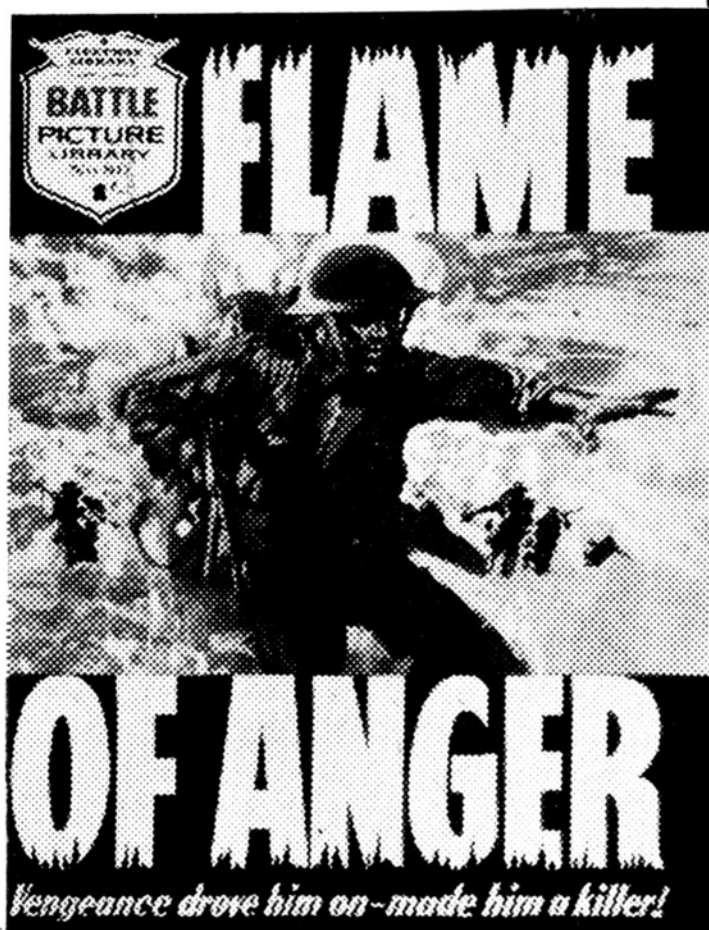
Vengeance drove him on—made him a killer !

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THE BRAVE AND THE DAMNED

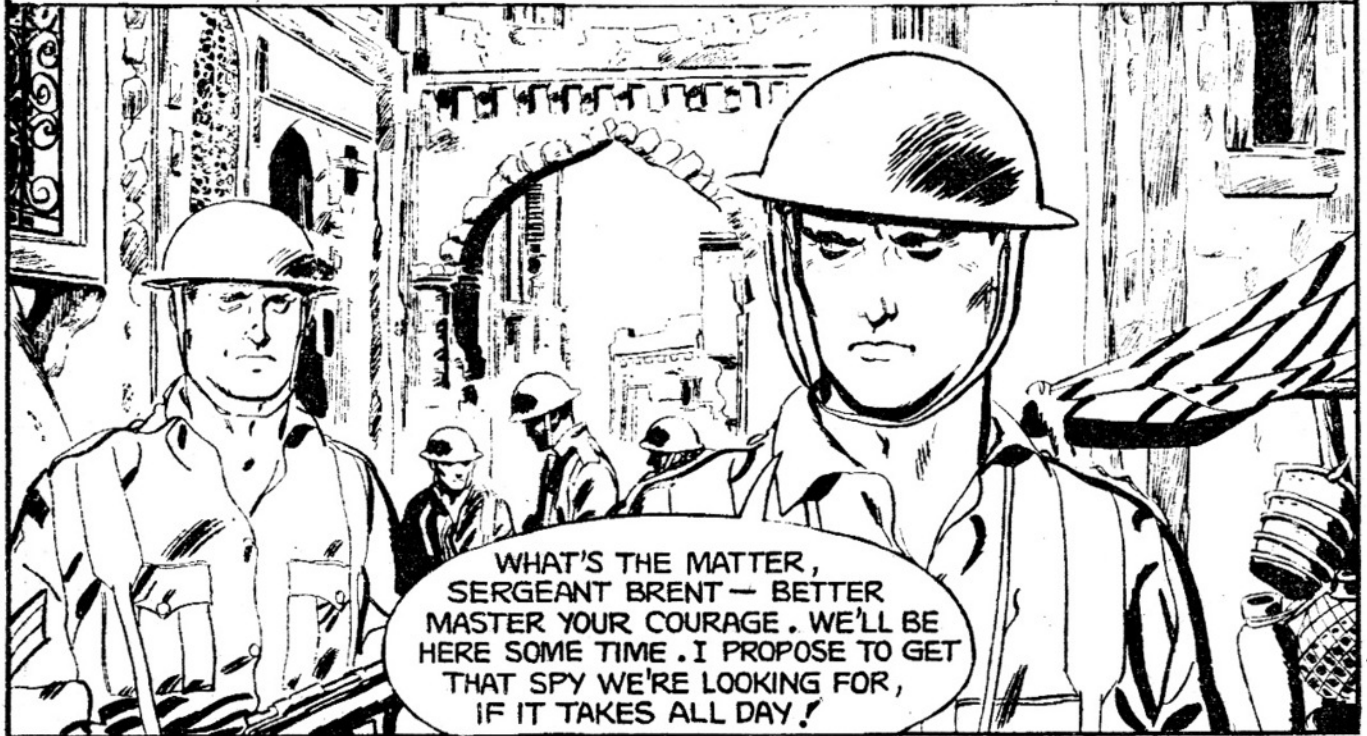
THE WHITE-HOT FORGE OF WAR TRANSFORMS SOME MEN TO TEMPERED STEEL . SOME IT BREAKS . BUT A HANDFUL OF MEN SEEM TO BE MARKED BY THE DEVIL HIMSELF TO SERVE HIM IN THE SLAUGHTER OF BATTLE . SUCH A MAN CAME WITH THE 8th ARMY TO TUNISIA IN JANUARY 1943 .



THE DEVILRY BEGAN THAT MONTH WHEN A COLUMN OF BRITISH TROOPS CAME FROM THE DESERT TO TAKE EL AMOREZ, A KEY-TOWN OF TUNISIA, HOT-BED OF SPIES AND FURTIVE HATE .

Chapter 1. *Prophecy in Blood*

LIEUTENANT SIMON SNAITH'S BROODING EYES GLITTERED AS HIS SERGEANT HALTED THEIR PATROL ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE ARAB QUARTER OF EL AMOREZ. SNAITH KNEW THE SERGEANT HATED HIM ...



BRENT, A VETERAN DESERT FIGHTER, SWALLOWED HIS DISLIKE OF THE SNEERING NEW PLATOON COMMANDER. GRIMLY, HE ORDERED THE PLATOON TO FALL IN.



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SNAITH POINTED TOWARDS A LOW-BUILT HOUSE . . .



THE SERGEANT PLACED HIS MEN ROUND THE HOUSE, AS SNAITH MADE HIS WAY INTO THE VILLA . . .



HASSAN IS JUST A CRANKY CRYSTAL-GAZER. H.Q. VETTED HIM YESTERDAY AND FOUND HE WAS NO SPY.

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HASSAN ED-DHIN, PHILOSOPHER, MYSTIC AND ASTROLOGER, WELCOMED SNAITH IN THE HOSPITABLE ARAB FASHION.



I THOUGHT YOU WERE JOKING AT HEADQUARTERS YESTERDAY, EFFENDI, WHEN YOU SAID YOU WOULD VISIT ME THAT I MIGHT READ YOUR DESTINY.

I AM NOT A PERSON WHO MAKES JOKES.

HASSAN LED THE WAY TO AN INNER ROOM, AND SNAITH'S SENSES, ALERT FOR ANY DANGER, COULD DETECT THE PRESENCE OF NO ONE ELSE IN THE VILLA. CYNICALLY, HE LET HASSAN INSPECT HIS PALM.



...IF I CAN'T TRAP THIS FORTUNE-TELLING TRICKSTER INTO GIVING HIMSELF AWAY, I'LL RANSACK THE WHOLE HOUSE FOR EVIDENCE OF HIS SPYING. HE FOOLED H.Q. BUT NOT ME.

EFFENDI, THIS IS REMARKABLE! YOUR HAND BEARS THE MARKS OF A GREAT DESTINY!

SNAITH'S PEBBLY EYES NARROWED. HE HAD NO FAITH IN HASSAN'S POWERS TO FORETELL THE FUTURE.

TELL YOUR MYSTERIES, PROPHET. LET US SEE HOW MUCH YOU CAN DIVINE.

YOU WILL LIVE THROUGH THIS WAR OF THE NATIONS TO BE A GREAT LEADER — ALL ABOUT YOU MEN WILL DIE, BUT YOU WILL SURVIVE...

... THIS STAR IS THE MARK OF THE KILLER. MEN WILL SAY IT IS TO THE DEVIL HIMSELF YOU OWE THE GENERAL'S BATON WHICH WILL COME TO YOU IN THE FULLNESS OF TIME...

SNAITH SCOWLED. CLEARLY THE ARAB HAD GUESSED THE DRIVING AMBITIONS WHICH HE HAD REVEALED TO NO-ONE. BUT HASSAN ADDED A FINAL WARNING...

BEWARE OF THE DEVIL, EFFENDI — IN WHATEVER GUISE HE COMES. FOR THE DEVIL ALONE IN ALL THE FIGHTING STILL TO COME, CAN ENCOMPASS YOUR DEATH.

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THIS WAS TOO MUCH. SNAITH'S HAND WENT TO HIS HOLSTER, AND THE ARAB SAW WITH SWIFT FEAR THE MENACE IN SNAITH'S EYES.

YOU DON'T TRICK ME, HASSAN. YOU'RE A CHARLATAN, PASSING INFORMATION TO THE GERMANS.



IT IS NOT TRUE, EFFENDI — I AM NO SPY!

DRIVING HASSAN BEFORE HIM FROM ROOM TO ROOM, SNAITH SEARCHED FOR INCRIMINATING DOCUMENTS — A HIDDEN RADIO, OR ANY POSSIBLE SIGN OF TREACHERY.

MAYBE IT WILL COMFORT YOU WHEN YOU ARE EXECUTED, HASSAN, TO THINK THAT YOUR DEATH WILL LEAD TO MY PROMOTION — THE FIRST STEP IN THE CAREER YOU FORETELL FOR ME.



PLEASE, EFFENDI — I AM A FRIEND OF THE BRITISH!

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SNAITH DID EVERYTHING BUT RIP THE VILLA APART IN HIS SEARCH, AND GRADUALLY IT CAME TO HIM THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE. HIS FURY RETURNED.



THEN HE REMEMBERED THAT ONE OR TWO OF THESE CODE-SHEETS — UNNECESSARY EXTRA EVIDENCE IN YESTERDAY'S CASE — WERE STILL IN HIS POCKET.



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HASSAN SAW SNAITH'S NARROWED EYES, HARD AND REMORSELESS, AND HIS PLEAS DIED IN HIS THROAT. INSTEAD HE MADE A FRANTIC BID TO ESCAPE...



The Brave And The Damned

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COOLLY, SNAITH CUT HIM OFF, CORNERED HIM AND TOOK CAREFUL AIM.



AT THE SOUND OF THE SHOT, SERGEANT BRENT AND TWO OF THE PLATOON HURRIED INTO THE COURTYARD.

LEAVE THE BODY WHERE IT IS, SERGEANT. PUT A GUARD ON THE HOUSE, AND SEND FOR THE INTELLIGENCE OFFICER — HE'LL FIND PROOF HASSAN WAS PASSING INFORMATION TO THE GERMANS.



The Brave And The Damned

AS SNAITH EXPECTED, WHEN HE PUT IN HIS REPORT — THE THIRD SUCCESS HE HAD HAD THAT WEEK — THE C.O. SENT FOR HIM.

I CONGRATULATE YOU ON YOUR RESOURCE, SNAITH. I'M RECOMMENDING YOU FOR THAT VACANT CAPTAINCY.

THANK YOU, SIR.

BUT AS SNAITH LEFT THE C.O.'S BILLET, HIS SELF-SATISFACTION WOULD HAVE BEEN JARRED IF HE COULD HAVE READ THE COLONEL'S THOUGHTS.

FOR SHEER EFFICIENCY SNAITH DESERVES THAT PROMOTION. BUT HE'S GOT EYES AS COLD AS A SNAKE — I HOPE I'VE MADE THE RIGHT CHOICE...

EXULTING OVER HIS FORTHCOMING PROMOTION, SNAITH MADE FOR THE OFFICERS' MESS. OTHERS THERE HAD TRIED TO TRAP HASSAN, THE FORTUNE-TELLER — BUT THEY HAD FAILED...

I'M STAGGERED YOU FOUND INCRIMINATING EVIDENCE AT HASSAN'S PLACE, SNAITH — I COULD HAVE SWORN HE WAS PRO-BRITISH — IN SPITE OF WHAT HE SAID TO ME YESTERDAY.

WHAT DID HE SAY TO YOU, CAPTAIN HALL?

OF ALL THE OFFICERS IN THE SOUTH ANGLIAN REGIMENT, OF WHICH SNAITH WAS THE NEWEST MEMBER, CAPTAIN HALL WAS THE ONE HE MOST DETESTED — A LEADER WITH ALL THE QUALITIES SNAITH HIMSELF LACKED.



HASSAN FORETOLD I WOULD DIE BY AN UNSEEN HAND AT SUNSET — AND BEGGED ME TO STAY IN CAMP TONIGHT.

SNAITH SMILED AS HE REMEMBERED THE DESTINY HASSAN HAD FORETOLD FOR HIM . . .

HASSAN TOLD ME I'D LIVE TO BE A GENERAL. I SUPPOSE YOU'LL STAY IN TONIGHT AND PLAY SAFE?



NO, I'M OFF ON PATROL — I DON'T BELIEVE IN THESE FAKES.

SNAITH WOKE EARLY NEXT MORNING, AS HE HEARD THE HEAVY FOOTSTEPS OF THE RETURNING PATROL. FOR AN INSTANT, HE WONDERED IF HALL HAD RETURNED, OR IF . . .



WHO'S THAT?

IT'S ME — HALL! STILL ALIVE. HASSAN SLIPPED UP IN HIS PREDICTION . . .

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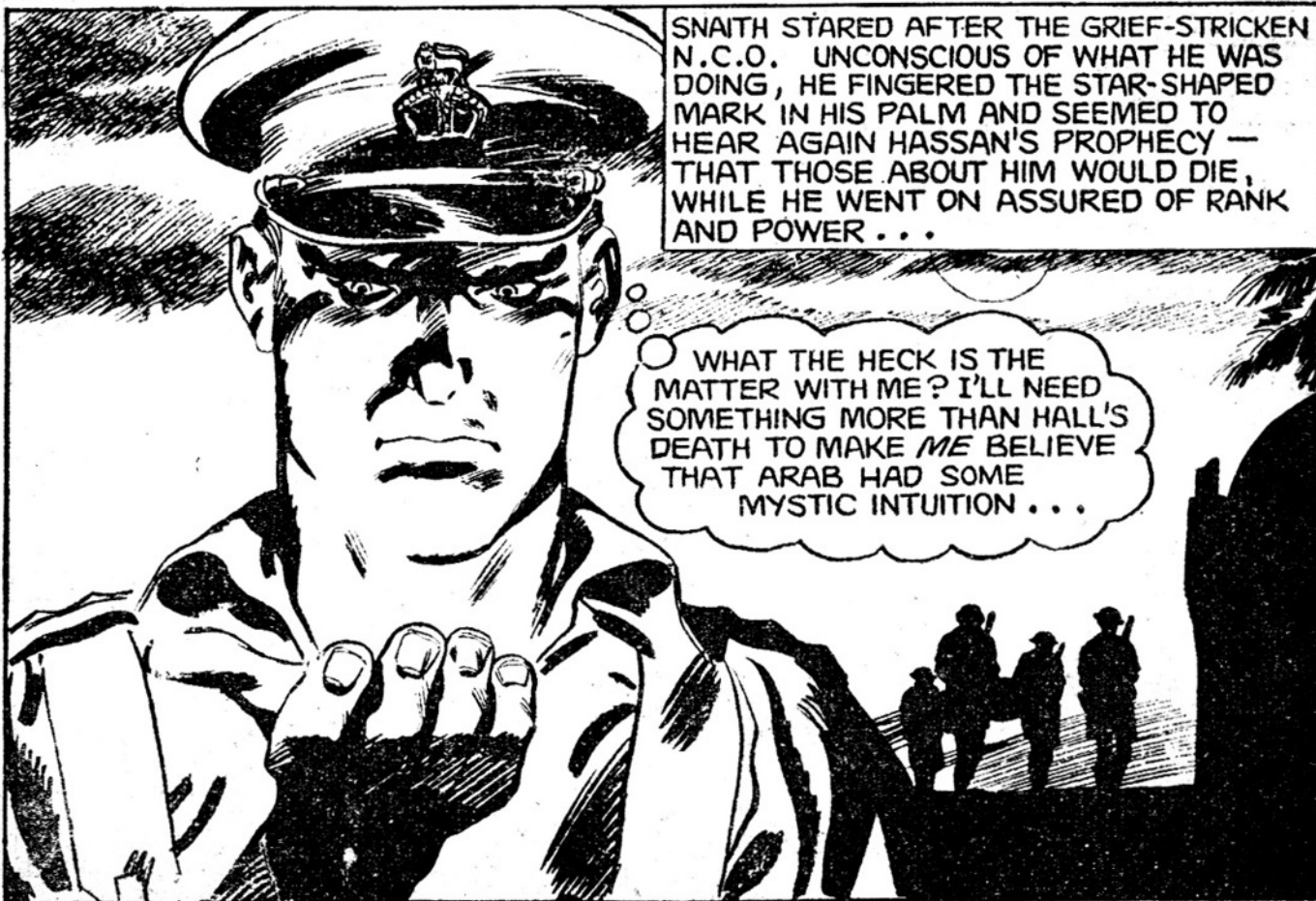
BUT AS SIMON SNAITH WENT TO HIS QUARTERS ONE EVENING A WEEK LATER, HE CAME ACROSS A STRETCHER PARTY . . .

WE WERE ON PATROL AND THE SUN WAS JUST GOING DOWN. CAPTAIN HALL TROD ON AN ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE. HE'S DEAD, SIR — THE BEST OFFICER 'C' COMPANY EVER HAD . . .



SNAITH STARED AFTER THE GRIEF-STRICKEN N.C.O. UNCONSCIOUS OF WHAT HE WAS DOING, HE FINGERED THE STAR-SHAPED MARK IN HIS PALM AND SEEMED TO HEAR AGAIN HASSAN'S PROPHECY — THAT THOSE ABOUT HIM WOULD DIE, WHILE HE WENT ON ASSURED OF RANK AND POWER . . .

WHAT THE HECK IS THE MATTER WITH ME? I'LL NEED SOMETHING MORE THAN HALL'S DEATH TO MAKE ME BELIEVE THAT ARAB HAD SOME MYSTIC INTUITION . . .



Chapter 2. *The Coward*

THE AFRIKA KORPS HAD COUNTER-ATTACKED ONCE AGAIN ACROSS THE TUNISIAN DESERT. THE SOUTH ANGLIAN REGIMENT WERE ORDERED TO HOLD EL AMOREZ AT ALL COSTS.



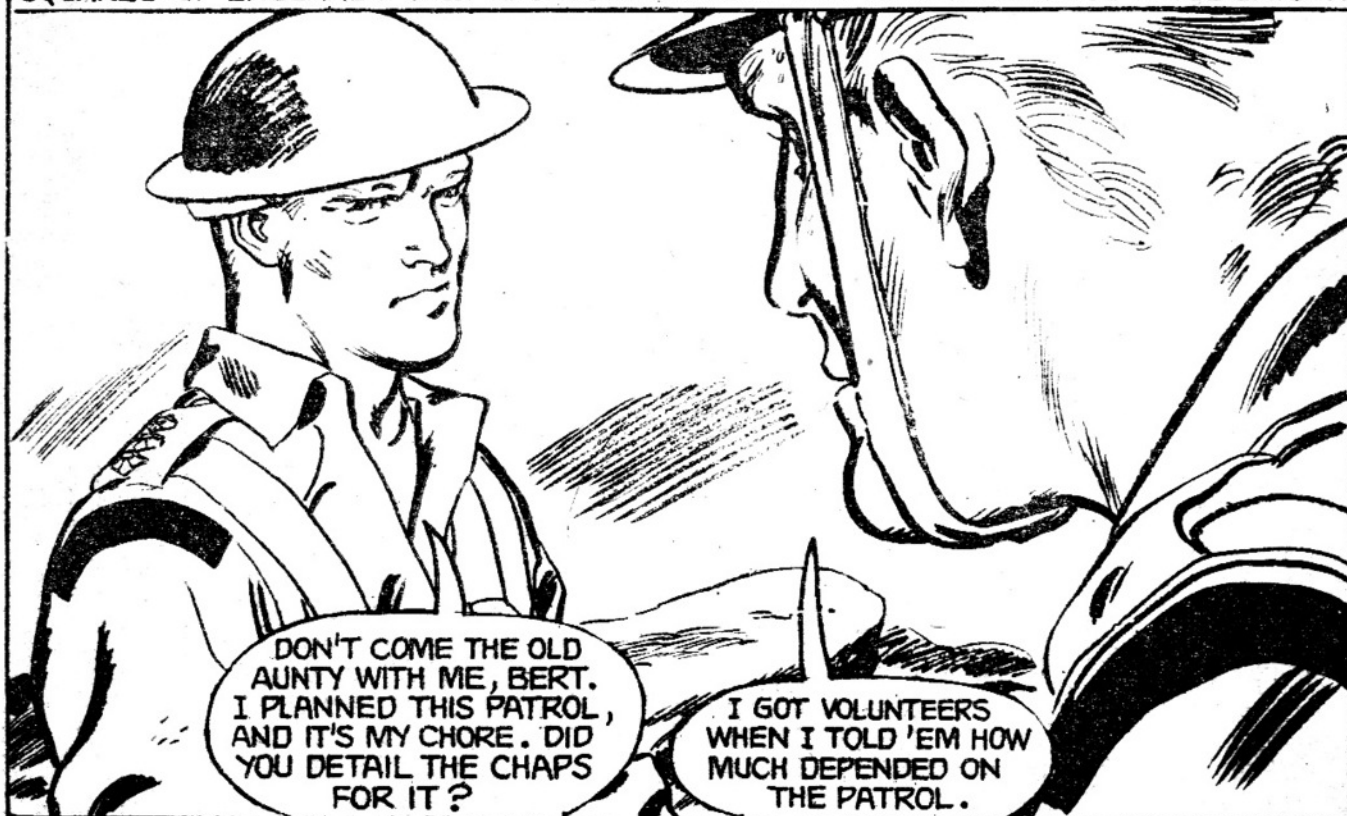
AT THAT MOMENT, CAPTAIN BILL SUMMERS — KNOWN TO HIS MEN AS 'THE BULLDOG' — STUDIED THE SCARRED NO MAN'S LAND IN FRONT OF 'B' COMPANY.

LET ME TAKE THE PATROL OUT TONIGHT, CAPTAIN SUMMERS. TOMORROW YOU'LL BE TAKING OVER THE COMPANY. WE CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE YOU ON A PERISHING PATROL.



The Brave And The Damned

SUMMERS HAD COME TO 'B' COMPANY AT ALAMEIN AS A PLATOON COMMANDER. THE SERGEANT-MAJOR HAD BEEN A CORPORAL THEN, FRESH FROM THE BARRACK-SQUARES OF ENGLAND. THEY HAD COME A LONG WAY TOGETHER SINCE THOSE DAYS...



SUMMERS FELT A GLOW OF PRIDE AS THE SERGEANT-MAJOR GATHERED THE VOLUNTEERS TO BE BRIEFED FOR THE PATROL.



BUT SUMMERS HAD HARDLY STARTED THE BRIEFING WHEN THEY WERE INTERRUPTED BY AN OFFICER WHO ANNOUNCED HIMSELF WITH MILITARY PRECISION.

SO YOU'RE SNAITH?
WELCOME TO THE COMPANY.
TAKE A SEAT, WE'RE
OFF PARADE...



THE C.O. SENT ME
TO SAY YOU'RE TO
TAKE OVER THE COMPANY
TONIGHT, SIR. HE
SUGGESTS I TAKE
THE PATROL OUT...

SUMMERS WAS ANNOYED AT MISSING THE PATROL, BUT THERE WAS NOTHING HE COULD DO ABOUT IT...

DARN IT - BUT IT
CAN'T BE HELPED. TAKE
THE SERGEANT-MAJOR ON
THE PATROL, SNAITH.
HE KNOWS THE
SET-UP.



I'LL CONDUCT
THE PATROL AS
IT SHOULD BE
DONE, SIR.

SNAITH LISTENED FRIGIDLY TO THE BRIEFING WHICH THE SERGEANT-MAJOR TOOK OVER, AND WHEN THE PATROL-PARTY DISPERSED TO GET READY THE SOLDIERS LOOKED AT EACH OTHER GLUMLY.

I WOULDN'T HAVE VOLUNTEERED
IF I'D KNOWN THIS NEW BLOKE,
SNAITH, WAS LEADING US
TONIGHT. I DON'T LIKE
THE LOOK OF HIM...

NOR ME,
MATE...



The Brave And The Damned

THAT NIGHT, SNAITH LED THE PARTY OF FIFTEEN MEN OUT OF THE FORWARD FOXHOLES OF 'B' COMPANY. THIS WAS SNAITH'S FIRST TASTE OF ACTION AND FEAR'S ICY GRIP CLAMPED UPON HIM AS HE TOOK THE LEAD.



BUT BY THE TIME THE PATROL HAD REACHED THE FRINGE AREA OF GERMAN ACTIVITY, THE SERGEANT-MAJOR HAD NOTICED WITH ANXIETY SNAITH'S TENSE, SET FACE. HE REALISED THAT THE NEW OFFICER WAS IN NO STATE TO LEAD THEM.



SNAITH TRIED TO WILL HIMSELF TO BELIEVE THE ARAB FORTUNE-TELLER'S PROPHECY THAT HE WOULD SURVIVE THE WAR. HE FORCED HIMSELF TO HIS FEET AND HIS VOICE CROAKED AN ORDER . . .

COME ON, THEN—
WHAT ARE WE
WAITING FOR?

THE CLOT—HE'LL
BE SEEN FOR MILES
AROUND, STANDING
ON THIS CREST!

HEADING THE SHAMBLING RUN DOWN THE SLOPE, SNAITH FELT THE SERGEANT-MAJOR'S HAND ON HIS ARM STEERING HIM TO NEW COVER.

A JERRY GUN—A BIG
ONE! THEY'RE DIGGING IN—
GET DOWN HERE BEFORE
THEY SEE US!

The Brave And The Damned

SNAITH WAS UNABLE TO PRETEND ANY LONGER THAT HE WAS IN COMMAND OF THE SITUATION. AS THEY TOOK COVER, HE LET THE SERGEANT-MAJOR ISSUE THE ORDERS.



STUMBLING BEHIND THE SERGEANT-MAJOR, SNAITH WAS LITTLE MORE THAN A HYPNOTISED SPECTATOR OF THE CHAOS THAT FOLLOWED.



JONES PULLED THE PIN FROM HIS GRENADE AND THRUST IT INTO THE BREACH OF THE GERMAN GUN . JUST IN TIME , HE LEAPED CLEAR .



WE'VE DONE IT!
IT'S EASIER THAN I THOUGHT.
BUT I'VE GOT TO PROVE I'M
STILL IN COMMAND .

SO FAR IT HAD BEEN A COMPLETE VICTORY FOR THE PATROL . BUT SOME OF THE GERMAN VETERANS HAD RECOVERED THEMSELVES AND WERE FIGHTING BACK . SNAITH SAW ONLY A TRIUMPH IN WHICH HE MUST HAVE HIS PART .



CHARGE !

NOT THAT
WAY — THEY'LL
MOW US DOWN !

The Brave And The Damned

CONFIDENT THE FIGHT WAS AS GOOD AS WON, SNAITH LED THE PATROL ACROSS THE OPEN GROUND. THE GERMANS TURNED A WITHERING FIRE ON THEIR ATTACKERS.

SNAITH'S BUNGLED THE WHOLE SHOW— WE'VE GOT TO OVERRUN THOSE JERRIES NOW, BEFORE THEY FINISH US ALL OFF!



SNAITH, SHAKEN AT THE FIERCE RESPONSE OF THE GERMANS, PLUNGED FOR COVER. NO ONE IN THE PATROL WAS FIRING NOW. BUT THE SERGEANT-MAJOR THREW ONE LAST GRENADE.

KEEP FIRING —
IT'S THEM OR
US!





BUT THERE WERE NO WATCHING GERMANS WHEN SNAITH CRAWLED OUT OF THE PALL OF DEATH THAT HUNG OVER THE WOOD.



The Brave And The Damned

HE SCRAMBLED BACK UP THE SLOPE FROM WHICH THE BRITISH PATROL HAD COME, REMEMBERING TO RELOAD HIS TOMMY-GUN. IT WAS THEN THAT HE SAW THE UNMISTAKABLE SILHOUETTE OF MOVING GERMANS . . .



THE FIGURES WERE RIGHT IN THE PATH BETWEEN SNAITH AND THE COMPARATIVE SAFETY OF 'B' COMPANY LINES. IN THAT MOMENT SNAITH ACTED LIKE A CORNERED ANIMAL . . .



IN SECONDS IT WAS OVER. HE SAW THE JERKING FIGURES FALL. THEN AS HE APPROACHED THEM, WARY OF ANY MOVEMENT, HE FROZE IN SUDDEN SHOCK...

THEY'RE BRITISH!
IT'S CORPORAL PENNY'S
SECTION. BUT IT WAS
GERMANS I SAW
JUST NOW!



COLD SWEAT BEADED HIS FOREHEAD AS HE RECOGNISED THE MEN OF HIS COMPANY. THEN HE HEARD A FAINT MOAN FROM NEARBY, AND SUDDENLY HE UNDERSTOOD HOW HE HAD MADE THE DREADFUL BLUNDER.

A GERMAN!
THAT'S IT - PENNY HAD
ALREADY CAPTURED
PRISONERS.. THAT ONE
IS STILL ALIVE...



The Brave And The Damned

THE WOUNDED GERMAN, BARELY CONSCIOUS, WAS MUTTERING DELIRIOUSLY. SNAITH, WHO KNEW SOME GERMAN, MADE OUT THE BROKEN WORDS...



NO ONE MUST KNOW WHAT I DID. THIS GERMAN IS THE ONLY ONE ALIVE WHO KNOWS...

IS THAT YOU, FRANZ? - WHAT HAS HAPPENED?

RELIEF FLOODED THROUGH SNAITH. THE WOUNDED GERMAN HAD NO IDEA IT WAS A BRITISH OFFICER WHO HAD KILLED THE PATROL. HE KNEW WHAT HE MEANT TO DO.



I'LL TAKE HIM BACK TO THE COMPANY LINES. HE'LL FIT IN WITH THE STORY I'LL HAVE TO TELL...

HALT! WHO GOES THERE?

A MINUTE LATER, MEN OF 'B' COMPANY WERE RELIEVING HIM OF HIS SEMI-CONSCIOUS PRISONER.

WE'LL LOOK AFTER THE PRISONER, CAPTAIN SNAITH — AND WE'LL WATCH FOR THE REST OF THE PATROL.

YOU NEEDN'T BOTHER — THEY'RE ALL DEAD.



IN THE BLACKED-OUT TRUCK WHICH SERVED AS HEADQUARTERS FOR BILL SUMMERS, SIMON SNAITH TOLD OF THE RAID — A VERSION ALREADY FORMULATED IN HIS MIND.

... I KNOCKED OUT THE GERMAN GUN AND I HAD THE PRISONER. THEN ANOTHER LARGE GERMAN PARTY ATTACKED US. WE HAD NO CHANCE. BUT I WAS LUCKY. THEY LEFT US ALL FOR DEAD...



ALL DEAD — BERT, PENNY, THE WHOLE PATROL? THE BEST CHAPS IN THE COMPANY?

SUMMERS STARED CLOSELY AT SNAITH, WHO HAD NOW RECOVERED HIS NERVE, CONFIDENT THAT NO ONE COULD CONTRADICT HIS STORY.

IF ONLY I COULD HAVE TAKEN THAT PATROL OUT, IT MIGHT HAVE GONE DIFFERENTLY.



I TRUST YOU DON'T BLAME ME, SUMMERS?

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SUMMERS WAS FILLED WITH BITTERNESS AND SORROW AT THE LOSS OF SO MANY MEN. BUT HE HAD NO REASON TO DOUBT SNAITH.

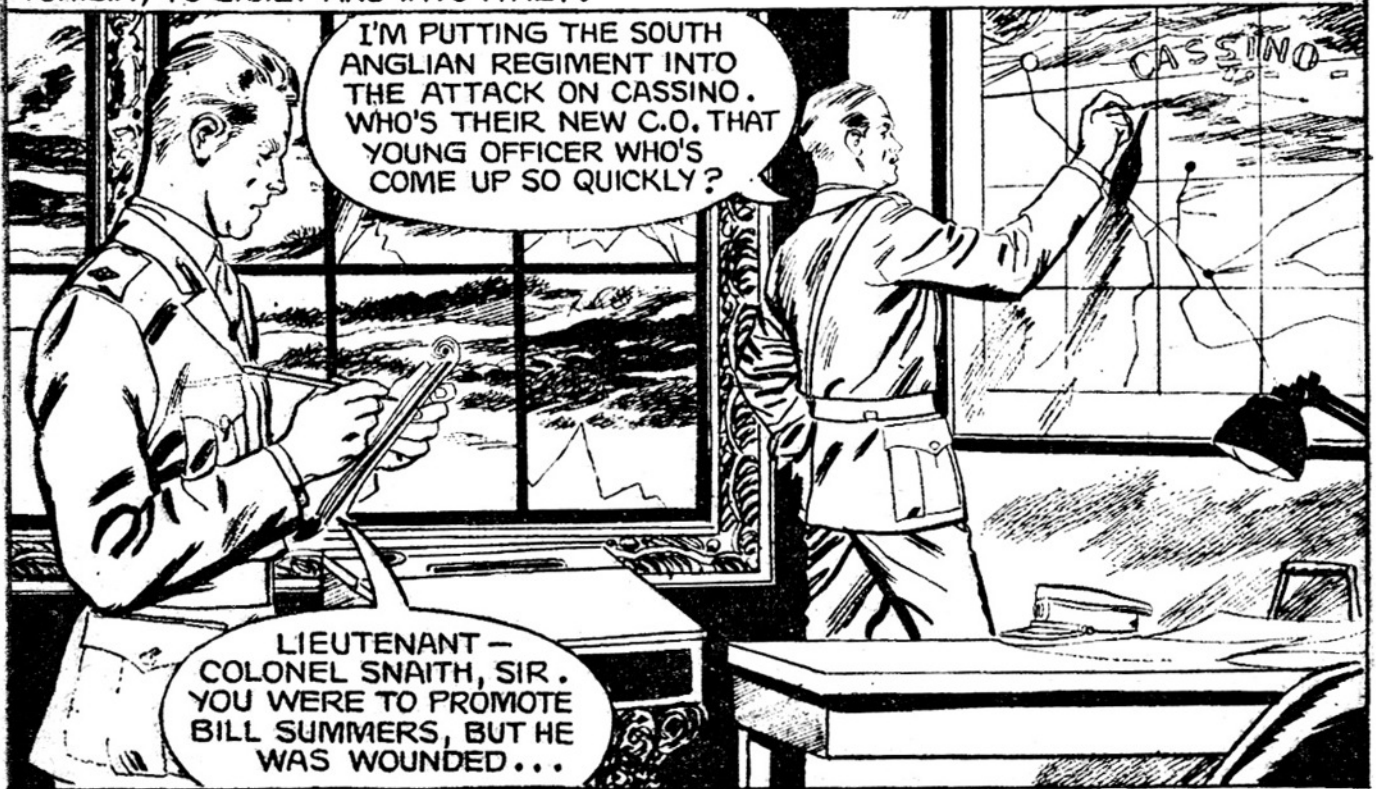


BEFORE SNAITH CRAWLED INTO HIS BIVOUAC THAT NIGHT, HE STARED WONDERINGLY AT THE STAR-SHAPED MARK ON HIS PALM. NOW EXULTATION SURGED THROUGH HIM. HE KNEW THAT NEVER AGAIN WOULD HE HAVE ANY FEAR OF BATTLE...



Chapter 3. The Killer

THE TEMPEST OF WAR SWEEPED TO NEW FURY IN THE ENSUING MONTHS, THROUGH TUNISIA, TO SICILY AND INTO ITALY.



AT THAT MOMENT, BILL SUMMERS WAS NEWLY OUT OF HOSPITAL AND ON HIS WAY BACK TO THE FRONT LINE WITH OTHER OFFICERS.



The Brave And The Damned

THE TRUCK WAS NEARING THE LINES OF THE SOUTH ANGLIAN REGIMENT, POISED IN THE FOOTHILLS TO ATTACK THAT GRIM BASTION OF GERMAN STRENGTH, MONTE CASSINO.

YOU MEAN THIS FELLOW DOESN'T CARE IF HE'S BLOWN TO BITS?



SUMMERS DROPPED OFF AT HIS REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS. THE TIME HAD COME FOR HIM TO MEET AGAIN THE MAN OF WHOM HE HAD SPOKEN — THE MAN WHO HAD NO FEAR . . .

IT'S AN ODD WAR. FIRST, I WAS SNAITH'S COMPANY COMMANDER. NOW HE'S MY C.O. AND I HAVE TO REPORT TO *HIM*.



AGAIN SUMMERS FACED SNAITH, THE OFFICER WHO HAD WON PROMOTION TO LIEUTENANT-COLONEL WITH RUTHLESS INDIFFERENCE TO THE LIVES OF HIS MEN.

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR NEW COMMAND, COLONEL SNAITH.

YOU'LL TAKE OVER 'C' COMPANY, MAJOR SUMMERS. WE'RE ON THE EVE OF A BIG ATTACK. YOUR MEN WILL BE EXPENDABLE. THIS REGIMENT IS GOING TO GAIN VICTORY AT ALL COSTS.

SUMMERS GAZED COLDLY AT HIS COMMANDING OFFICER.

REMEMBER YOUR FIRST PATROL IN TUNISIA, WHEN ONLY YOU RETURNED? DID YOU KNOW THERE WAS ONE SURVIVOR? HE WAS TAKEN PRISONER BY THE GERMANS. I HAD A LETTER FROM HIM WHEN I WAS IN HOSPITAL.

ONE OF THEM STILL LIVES?

ALWAYS SNAITH HAD THRUST AWAY FROM HIM THE MEMORY OF THAT FATEFUL PATROL. BUT IF SOMEONE LIVED FROM THAT PATROL, HIS WHOLE CAREER WAS MENACED.

IT WAS CORPORAL PENNY WHO LIVED. HE WROTE ME A STRANGE ACCOUNT OF THAT PATROL, COLONEL SNAITH—QUITE DIFFERENT FROM YOURS.

WHAT ARE YOU GETTING AT, SUMMERS?

The Brave And The Damned

THAT LETTER ABOUT THE PATROL HAD TOLD BILL SUMMERS ENOUGH TO MAKE HIM SUSPECT SNAITH HAD LIED. SNAITH'S REACTION WAS SAVAGE . . .

CORPORAL PENNY THINKS HIS PATROL WAS SHOT DOWN BY SOMEONE WHO LOST HIS NERVE . . .

NO-ONE WOULD BELIEVE THAT OF ME. THESE MEDAL RIBBONS I WEAR WERE NOT WON BY COWARDICE !

SNAITH WAS WHITE WITH ANGER AS SUMMERS LEFT.

I SHAN'T FORGET THIS, SUMMERS. YOU'LL NEVER MAKE THAT ACCUSATION STICK !

ONLY YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED ON THAT PATROL. BUT AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, COLONEL SNAITH — YOU'VE ACCUSED YOURSELF !

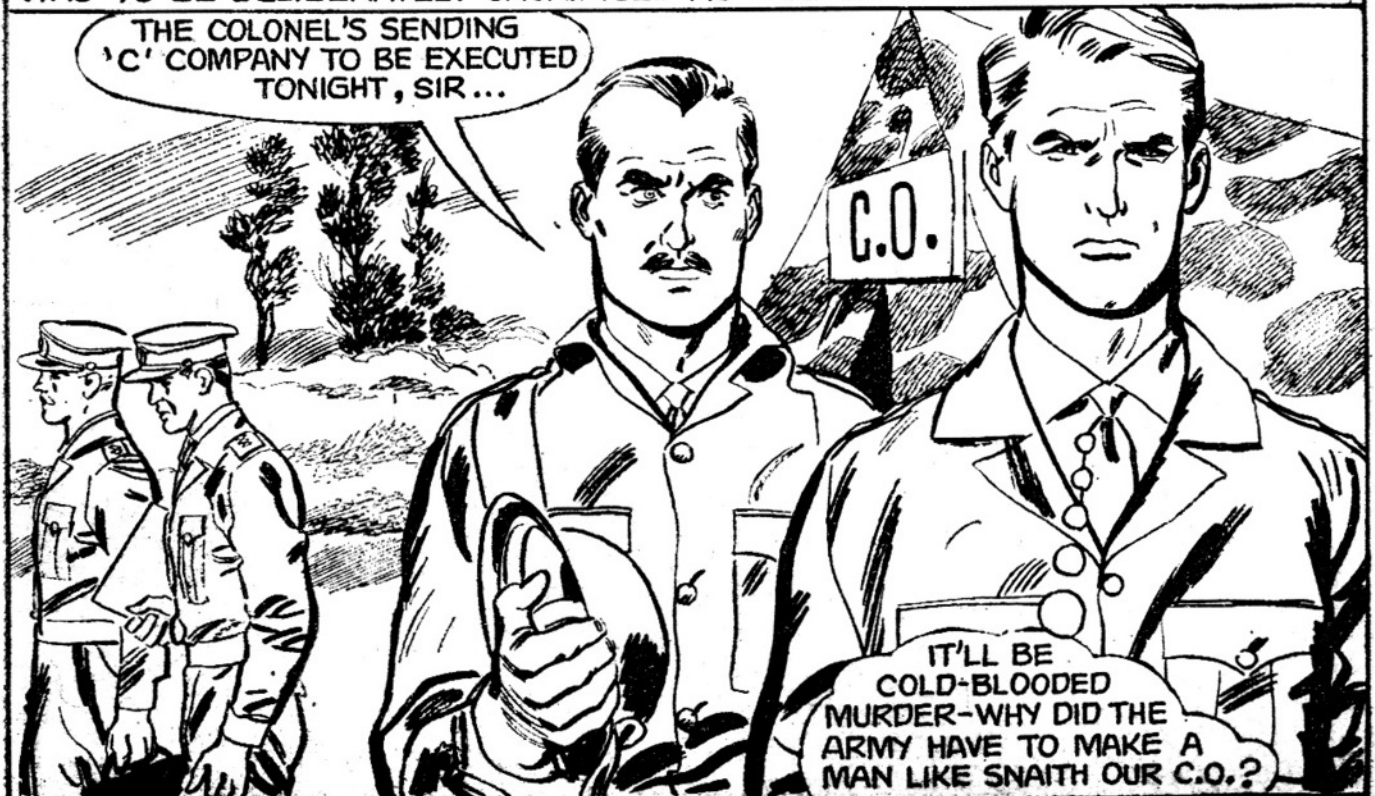
SUMMERS WENT TO HIS NEW COMPANY, STILL UNABLE TO FATHOM THE WHOLE TRUTH ABOUT SNAITH...STILL UNCERTAIN THAT SNAITH, THE SEEKER OF BATTLE HONOURS IN ITALY HAD, INDEED, BEEN A COWARD IN TUNISIA .

WELCOME TO 'C' COMPANY, MAJOR SUMMERS !

STILL SEETHING WITH RAGE, SNAITH CALLED FOR HIS ADJUTANT AND BEGAN WORKING OUT THE BATTLE PLAN FOR THE REGIMENT'S NIGHT ATTACK ON THE DEADLY OBSTACLE COURSE TO CASSINO KNOWN AS 'INFERNO HILL'.



SNAITH'S PLAN WAS COMPLETED. THE REGIMENT'S ORDER GROUPS WERE BRIEFED. NOW EVERY OFFICER AND SENIOR N.C.O. KNEW THAT 'C' COMPANY WAS TO BE DELIBERATELY SACRIFICED AS LIVE BAIT FOR THE ENEMY.



The Brave And The Damned

OUTWARDLY CALM, SUMMERS FELT BITTER AS HE REALISED THE MEANING OF THE ORDERS GIVEN TO HIM. BUT THEY WERE ORDERS AND, AS SUCH, THEY HAD TO BE CARRIED OUT.

WE'LL DO OUR BEST, MAJOR SUMMERS.
I'LL TAKE THE LEADING PLATOONS UP
TO THE STARTLINE.

I'M LEADING 'EM ON THIS
PARTY, TOM. I WANT YOU TO
LOOK AFTER THE COMPANY
H.Q. GROUP.



AS THE MOON ROSE, SUMMERS SCRAMBLED FROM THE GULLY ON TO THE FIRST SLOPE OF INFERNO HILL. AHEAD, THE LAST BURSTS OF THE BRITISH ARTILLERY BARRAGE ERUPTED ON THE HEIGHTS THAT 'C' COMPANY HAD BEEN ORDERED TO CAPTURE.

ALL RIGHT,
LET'S GO!



HE KNEW HIS COMPANY'S BEST CHANCE WAS SPEED IN THE ATTACK, AND HE WENT UP THE SCARRED SLOPE LIKE A TEAM TRAINER SUPERVISING A SPRINT.



NEXT MOMENT, THE SILENCE WAS SHATTERED, AND THE NIGHT WAS ABLAZE WITH THE GERMAN ANSWER TO 'C' COMPANY'S ASSAULT.



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SUMMERS SAW HIS MEN STRUGGLING FOR SURVIVAL IN THAT STORM OF BULLETS. THE FIRE CAME FROM THE FIRST GERMAN OUTPOST — "C" COMPANY HAD NOT EVEN SILENCED THE ENEMY HALF-WAY HOUSE ON THEIR JOURNEY UP INFERNO HILL.

MAKE FOR THAT RIDGE AHEAD, AND WE'LL START THE RUN IN FROM COVER.



THEY FLUNG THEMSELVES, PANTING AND EXHAUSTED, INTO THE DITCHES THAT WERE THEIR LAST HAVEN BEFORE THEY MADE THEIR ATTEMPT TO PULL THE TEETH OF THE ENEMY DEFENCES.

WE'VE LOST THREE OF THE OFFICERS AND ABOUT A THIRD OF THE MEN, SIR.

WE'LL SPLIT INTO TWO PARTIES. I'LL TAKE THIS PLATOON UP TO THE FIRST NEST OF JERRY GUNS, WHILE THE REST OF THE COMPANY GIVES COVERING FIRE.



THE ORDERS WERE PASSED TO THE OTHER PLATOON COMMANDERS, AND THEN SUMMERS AND HIS PARTY RENEWED THEIR ATTACK ON THE HILL OF DEATH.

ONE LAST
SPURT AND WE'RE
THERE!



NEXT MOMENT, THE FIRST WAVE OF 'C' COMPANY WERE ON TOP OF THE FIRST GERMAN WEAPON-PITS, AND THE CARNAGE REACHED A NEW PITCH OF FEROCITY.

IT'S OUR
TURN NOW!



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THE GERMANS FOUGHT WITH THE DESPERATION OF MEN WHO KNEW THAT THIS WAS A NIGHT OF NO QUARTER. BUT WITH THE SECOND WAVE OF 'C' COMPANY SURGING THROUGH THEIR POSITIONS, THEY WERE OVERWHELMED.

THE C.O. IS ON THE RADIO ASKING FOR A REPORT.

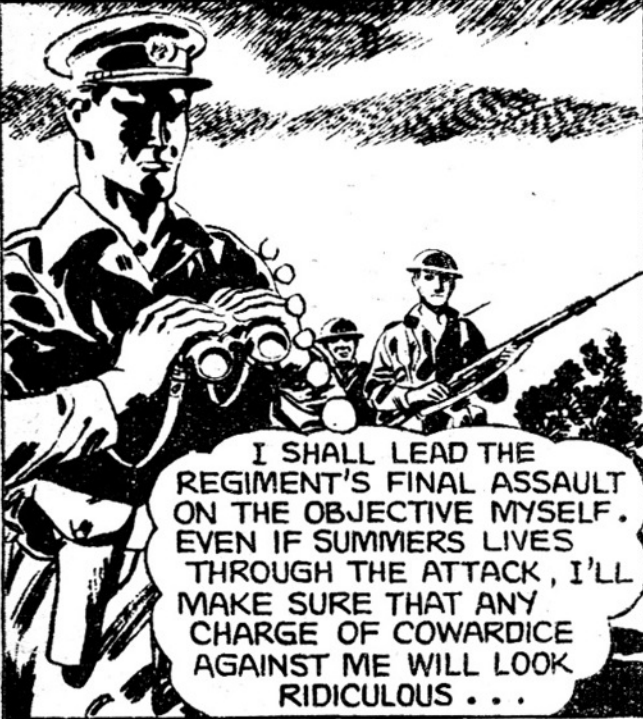
TELL HIM WE'VE TAKEN HALF-WAY HOUSE. GIVE THE CASUALTY TOTAL. TELL HIM THAT WITH TANK SUPPORT A HANDFUL OF THE COMPANY *MIGHT* REACH THE OBJECTIVE.

SNAITH AND HIS REGIMENTAL H.Q. GROUP ON A NEIGHBOURING HILL, FROM WHICH THE DISTANT BATTLE COULD BE OBSERVED, WERE HANDED THE REPORT FROM 'C' COMPANY.

MORE THAN TWO-THIRDS OF 'C' COMPANY ARE KILLED, SIR. THE REST OF THE REGIMENT COULD COVER THEIR WITHDRAWAL—

I AM NOT WITHDRAWING THEM— TELL SUMMERS TO GET ON WITH THE ATTACK. WE'RE GOING TO TAKE THAT HILL, WHATEVER THE COST!

THE RUTHLESS C.O. WAITED FOR THE CRUCIAL MOMENT, WHEN THE GERMANS WOULD BE INTENT ONLY ON DISPOSING OF THE BADLY CRIPPLED 'C' COMPANY. THAT WOULD BE THE MOMENT FOR SNAITH TO ORDER THE REGIMENT INTO A FLANK ATTACK.



I SHALL LEAD THE REGIMENT'S FINAL ASSAULT ON THE OBJECTIVE MYSELF. EVEN IF SUMMERS LIVES THROUGH THE ATTACK, I'LL MAKE SURE THAT ANY CHARGE OF COWARDICE AGAINST ME WILL LOOK RIDICULOUS...

HE GAVE THE ORDER, SAW HIS COMPANIES MOVING UP, FOR THEIR FIRST ENGAGEMENT WITH THE ENEMY IN A WAR-RUINED HAMLET ON THE FLANK OF INFERNO HILL.



'A' COMPANY SAY JERRY REINFORCEMENTS ARE PUSHING THEM OUT OF THAT HAMLET UP THE ROAD, SIR.

DRIVER—GET ME UP THERE AND QUICK!

SNAITH'S DRIVER HEADED INTO THE LETHAL HAILSTORM, HIS NERVES TAUT TO BREAKING POINT. BUT SNAITH, CONFIDENT AS EVER OF HIS IMMUNITY FROM DEATH, GAVE ALL HIS MIND TO THE CONDUCT OF THE BATTLE.

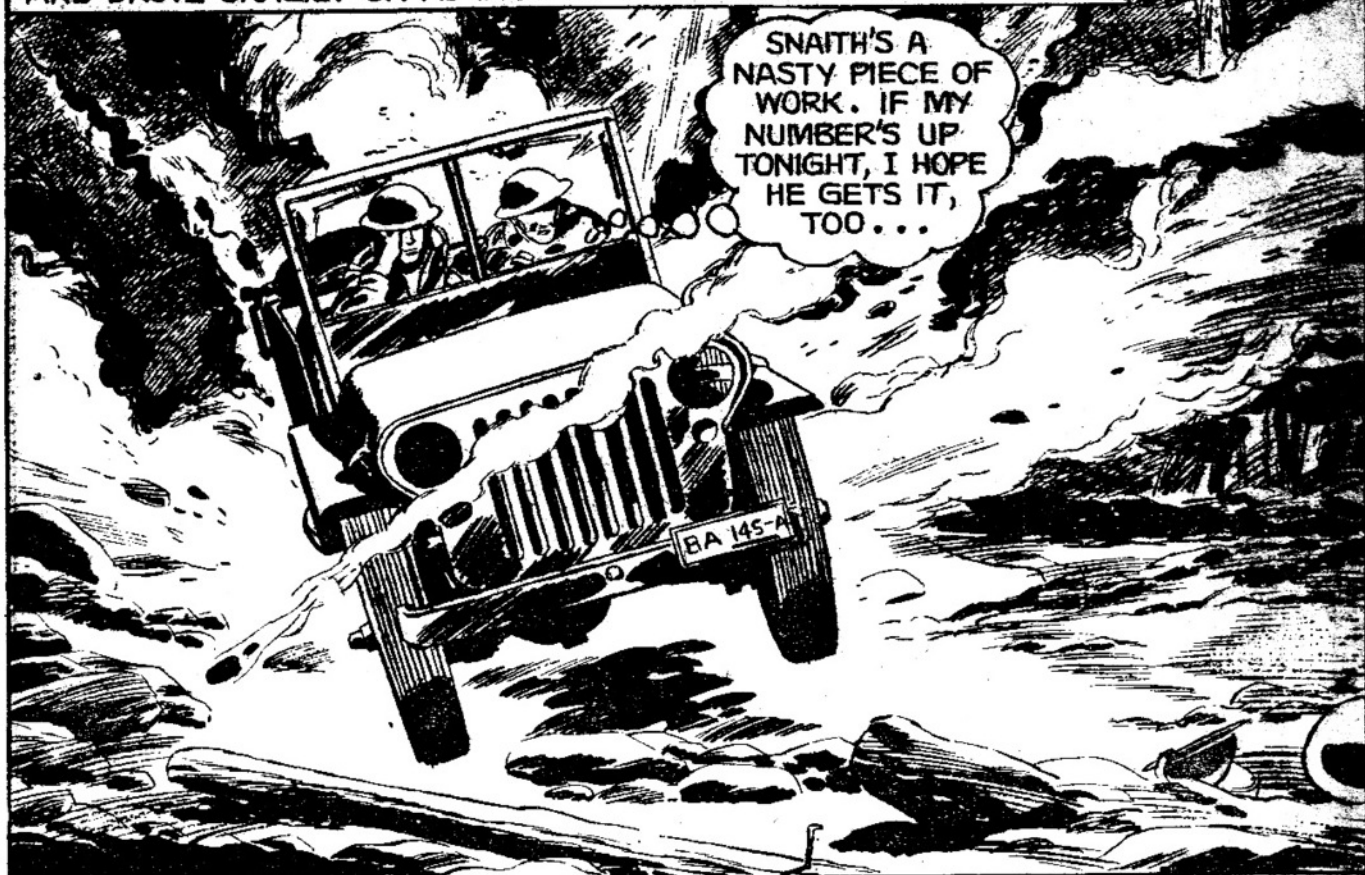


I CAN'T GET THE JEEP ANY FARTHER, SIR.

DON'T WHIMPER TO ME—I'LL TELL YOU WHEN TO STOP.

The Brave And The Damned

THE DRIVER GRITTED HIS TEETH AT SNAITH'S SCATHING CONTEMPT AND DROVE CRAZILY ON AT RISK OF OVERTURNING ANY MOMENT.



EVEN AS SNAITH LEAPED FROM THE JEEP TO TAKE OVER FROM THE ASTONISHED 'A' COMPANY COMMANDER, THE WHISTLE OF AN ARMOUR-PIERCING SHELL ENDED IN A SHATTERING IMPACT.



BUT SNAITH HAD LEAPED CLEAR IN THE NICK OF TIME. HE PICKED HIMSELF UP FROM THE ROAD UNHURT BY THE SHELL THAT HAD SHATTERED HIS JEEP AND KILLED HIS DRIVER.

ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO BE SOLDIERS? THERE'S FIGHTING TO DO. GET UP THAT HILL INTO THE VILLAGE!



SNAITH WAS EVERYWHERE THAT NIGHT. WHEREVER THE BATTLE WAS THICKEST, HE WOULD APPEAR LIKE A MALEVOLENT TYRANT SCOURGING HIS REGIMENT INTO FEATS THAT SEEMED BEYOND ENDURANCE.

WE'RE TOO LATE TO SAVE 'C' COMPANY. MAJOR SUMMERS AND THE LAST HANDFUL OF THEM HAVE REACHED THEIR OBJECTIVE.

IT'S OUR OBJECTIVE, TOO—GET THE REGIMENT MOVING.



The Brave And The Damned

AS THE MAULED REGIMENT BRACED ITSELF FOR THE ATTACK ON THE SUMMIT OF INFERNO HILL, SNAITH HALTED HIS OWN EFFORTS TO WATCH SUMMERS IN HIS DESPERATE BATTLE AGAINST OVERWHELMING ODDS.

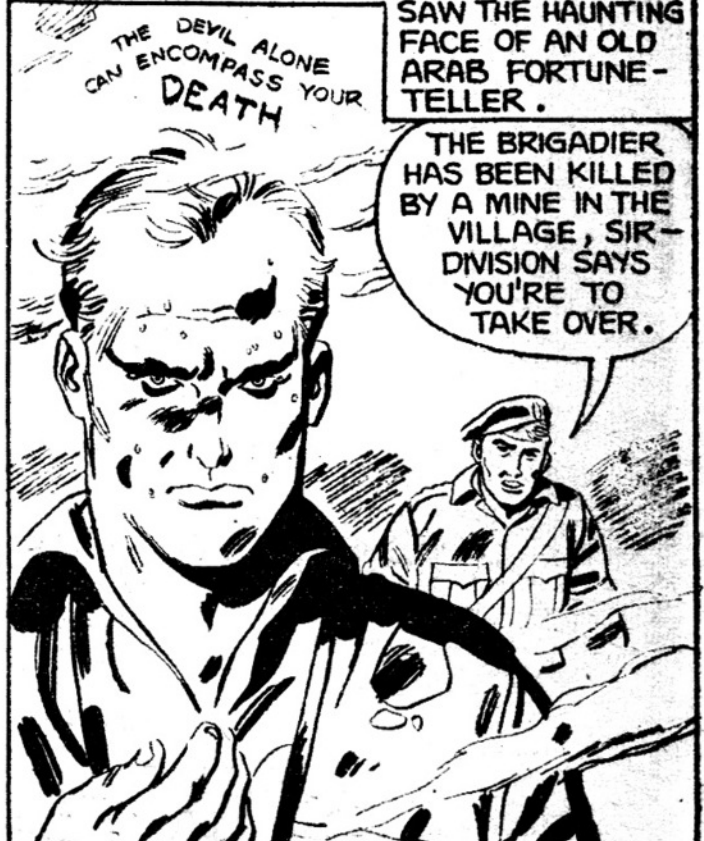


BUT IT WAS DAWN BEFORE THE REGIMENT TOOK THE HILL OF DEATH WHERE 'C' COMPANY HAD BEEN SACRIFICED. SNAITH'S MEN SANK ALONGSIDE THEIR DEAD COMRADES, AND STARED IN AWED, UNWILLING ADMIRATION AT THEIR FEROCIOUS COMMANDER.

'TIS THE C.O. STANDING THERE, CHARLIE! WHAT A FIGHTER — LIKE THE DEVIL HIMSELF, HE WAS. AND ONLY THE DEVIL HIMSELF WILL CARRY HIM OFF!



AS IF IN A VISION FROM THE PAST, SNAITH SAW THE HAUNTING FACE OF AN OLD ARAB FORTUNE-TELLER.



THE BRIGADIER HAS BEEN KILLED BY A MINE IN THE VILLAGE, SIR—DIVISION SAYS YOU'RE TO TAKE OVER.

Chapter 4. *The Devil*

MONTH BY MONTH THE TENTACLES OF THE NAZI OCTOPUS WERE BEING CHOPPED FROM THEIR STRANGLEHOLD ON EUROPE. NOT ONLY THE ALLIED ARMIES AND NAVIES, BUT PARTISANS LIKE THOSE IN JUGOSLAVIA INTENSIFIED THE FIGHT AGAINST THE HARASSED GERMANS.



WHEN THE PLANE LANDED, A BRITISH OFFICER JUMPED DOWN AND GREETED THE PARTISAN LEADER.

I AM LOOKING FOR A BRITISH MAJOR - ONE WHO WAS WOUNDED AND CAPTURED BY THE GERMANS AT CASSINO. HE ESCAPED FROM HIS PRISON HOSPITAL INTO JUGOSLAVIA. HE IS MAJOR BILL SUMMERS.

PARDON MY WHISKERS, OLD MAN, BUT I'M BILL SUMMERS!



The Brave And The Darned

AFTER RECOVERING FROM HIS WOUNDS, SUMMERS HAD STAYED ON WITH THE PARTISANS AT THE REQUEST OF THE SPECIAL OPERATIONS H.Q. AND BECAME A GUERRILLA LEADER OF RENOWN.



FORTY-EIGHT HOURS LATER, SUMMERS — MINUS HIS BEARD AND IN A BRAND NEW UNIFORM — REPORTED TO THE WAR OFFICE.





SNAITH, COLD AND INSCRUTABLE, MET SUMMERS AT A BIG TRAINING CAMP NEXT DAY. HE NO LONGER FELT ANY FEAR OF THE MAN HE HAD ONCE TRIED TO SEND TO HIS DEATH—FOR HIS OWN HIGH POSITION WAS SECURE...



The Brave And The Damned

IN THOSE WEEKS THAT FOLLOWED, NAZI GERMANY WAS FINALLY OVERTHROWN, AND THE RETREAT OF THE JAPANESE IN THE FAR EAST LEFT SNAITH'S BRIGADE WITHOUT A JOB. FURIOUS, HE SAW HIS CHANCES FADING OF EMERGING FROM THE WAR AS A GENERAL.



EVENTUALLY SNAITH HAD HIS WAY, AND HIS THREE REGIMENTS WERE EMBARKED FOR MALAYA.



SNAITH READ THE DECODED MESSAGE, DREADING THAT IT MIGHT BE AN ORDER FOR HIS BRIGADE TO RETURN TO ENGLAND. THEN TRIUMPH SURGED THROUGH HIM.

ROYAL NAVY.

MES

MY DESTINY IS FULFILLED!

Form No. 4032.

FORM NO. 19

OFFICER'S SIGNATURE

R.N.

TIME OF ORIGIN

TIME OF D.

ADDRESS TO...

ADDRESS FROM...

Myself, Radio Officer, Snaith

War Office. (General Staff, Snaith)

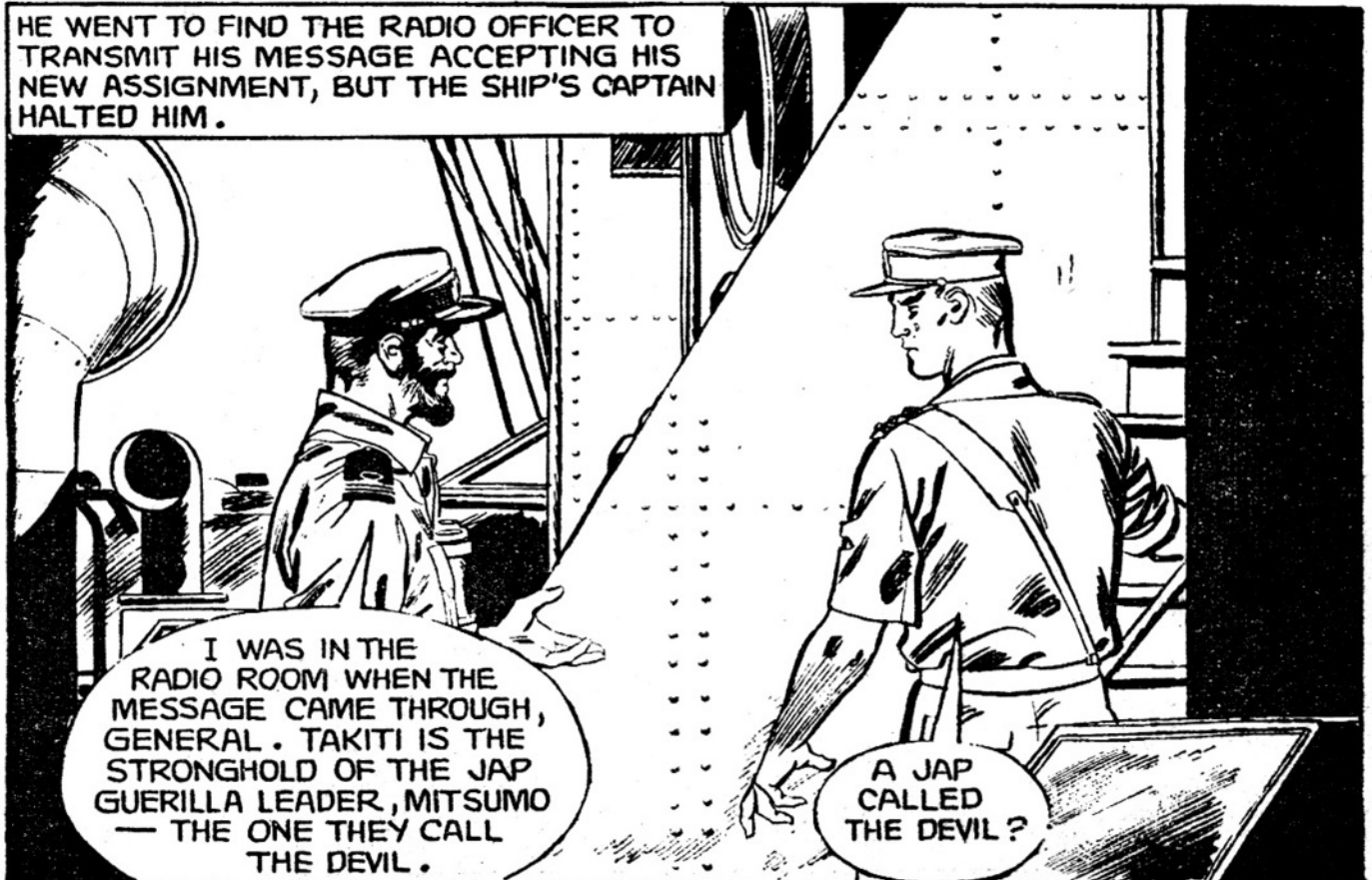
See also Snaith (War Office)

4032.

OPERATOR.

Your Brigade will be diverted from Malaya for invasion Japanese Island. of Takiti. U.S. Forces will co-operate. You are promoted Major-General to Rank with your U.S. opposite number.

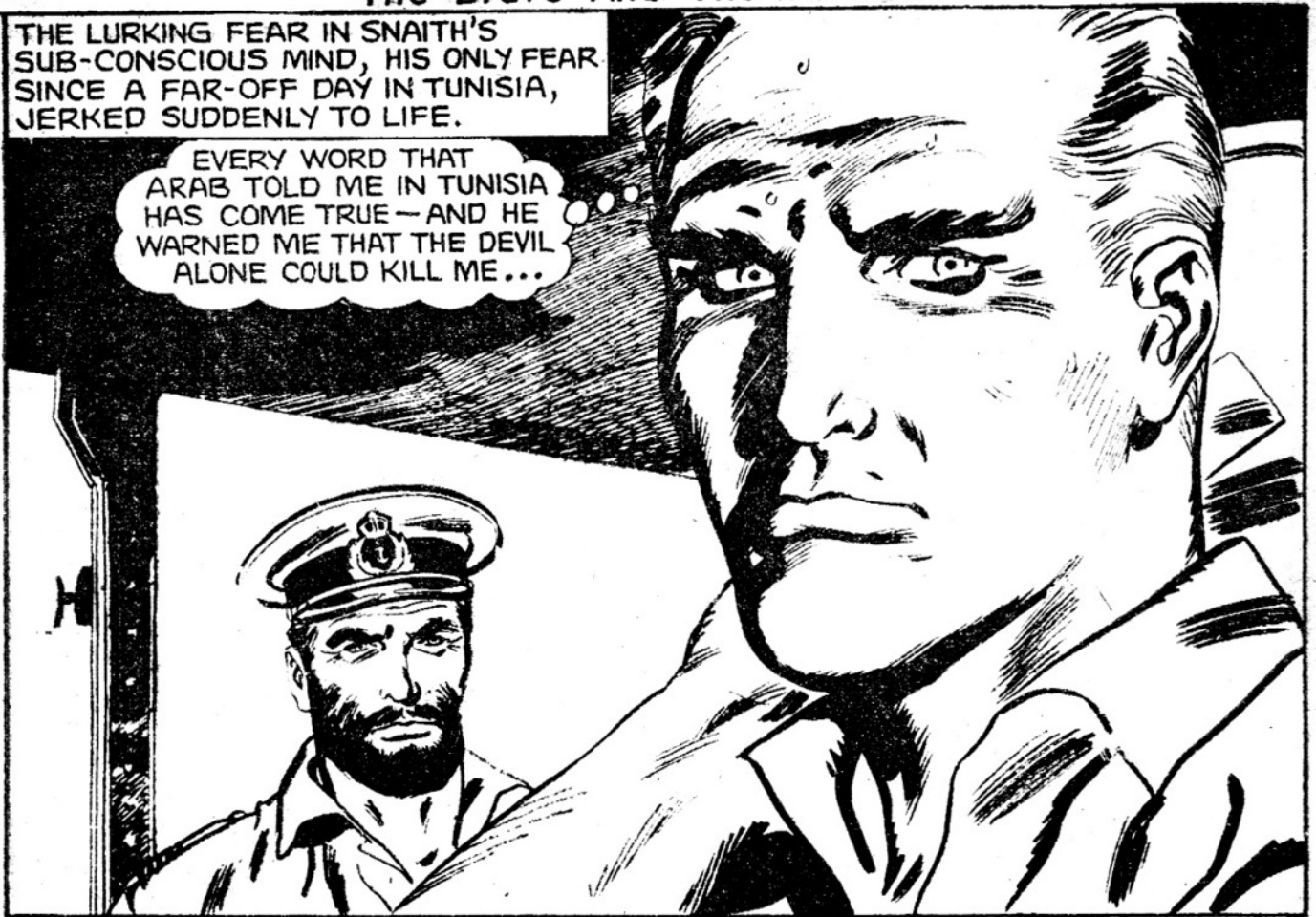
HE WENT TO FIND THE RADIO OFFICER TO TRANSMIT HIS MESSAGE ACCEPTING HIS NEW ASSIGNMENT, BUT THE SHIP'S CAPTAIN HALTED HIM.



The Brave And The Damned

THE LURKING FEAR IN SNAITH'S SUB-CONSCIOUS MIND, HIS ONLY FEAR SINCE A FAR-OFF DAY IN TUNISIA, JERKED SUDDENLY TO LIFE.

EVERY WORD THAT ARAB TOLD ME IN TUNISIA HAS COME TRUE — AND HE WARNED ME THAT THE DEVIL ALONE COULD KILL ME...



FOR THE FIRST TIME IN YEARS, SNAITH FELT HIS SELF-CONFIDENCE DRAINING OUT OF HIM. NERVES HE HAD FORGOTTEN HE POSSESSED WERE ALIVE AND TAUT AGAIN.

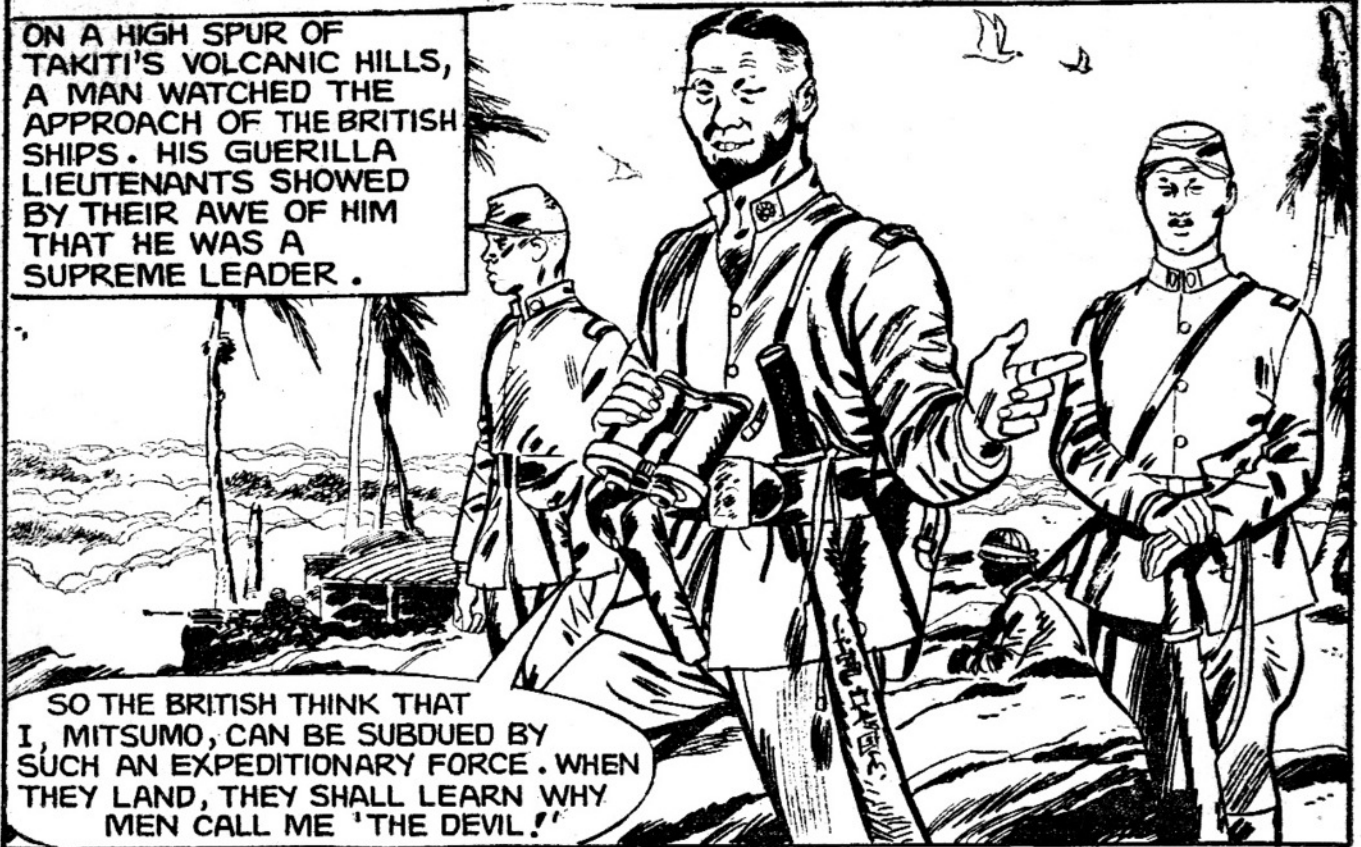
YOU LOOK UPSET, GENERAL.

IT — IT'S THIS TROPIC HEAT. IT'S NOTHING...



Chapter 5. Hell's Playground

ON A HIGH SPUR OF TAKITI'S VOLCANIC HILLS, A MAN WATCHED THE APPROACH OF THE BRITISH SHIPS. HIS GUERRILLA LIEUTENANTS SHOWED BY THEIR AWE OF HIM THAT HE WAS A SUPREME LEADER.



SO THE BRITISH THINK THAT I, MITSUMO, CAN BE SUBDUED BY SUCH AN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE. WHEN THEY LAND, THEY SHALL LEARN WHY MEN CALL ME 'THE DEVIL!'

ON BOARD THE FLAGSHIP OF THE BRITISH FLOTILLA, MAJOR-GENERAL SNAITH TRIED TO CONQUER HIS NAMELESS FEARS — NOT LESSENER BECAUSE THE AMERICAN FORCE HAD BEEN CALLED AWAY TO ANOTHER TROUBLE SPOT.

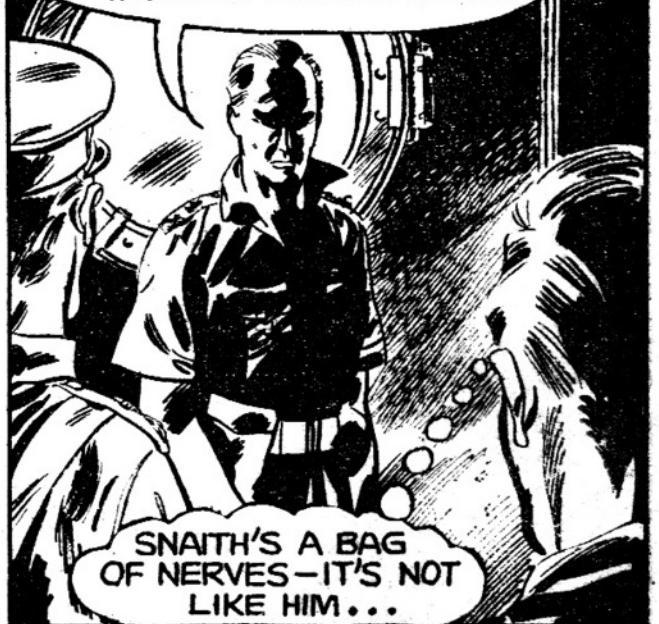


WHAT IS THE MATTER WITH ME? I DON'T EVEN NEED TO SET FOOT ON DEVIL'S ISLAND TO DIRECT THIS OPERATION...

THE ASSAULT PLAN STILL HAS TO BE DECIDED, GENERAL.

SNAITH TRIED TO CONCENTRATE, BUT FOR TOO LONG NOW HE HAD BUILT ALL HIS SUCCESS ON AN ARAB SOOTHSAYER'S PROMISE.

WE'D BETTER USE THE PLAN WE WORKED OUT THIS MORNING. SUMMERS WILL LEAD THE BEACH LANDING — THIRTY MINUTES BEFORE DAWN.



SNAITH'S A BAG OF NERVES — IT'S NOT LIKE HIM...

The Brave And The Damned

PINNACES TOOK THE UNIT COMMANDERS BACK TO THEIR SHIPS AND THEIR TROOPS. ALL WERE MYSTIFIED BY THE CHANGE THAT HAD COME OVER SNAITH.



FROM 3 A.M. THE NEXT MORNING BRITISH NAVAL SHELLS PLASTERED THE APPROACHES TO THE BEST LANDING POINT FOR THE INVADING FORCES. BUT ACCORDING TO PLAN, SUMMERS MOUNTED A SWIFT ASSAULT ON A NEIGHBOURING BEACH.



The Brave And The Damned

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SUMMERS' INSTINCT WAS RIGHT. AS HIS MEN ADVANCED ON TO THE BEACH, THE JAPS OPENED UP A DEADLY CROSS FIRE WITH HEAVY MACHINE-GUNS.

KEEP
THE MEN
MOVING!



IF THEY WAVERED NOW, HE KNEW THAT THEY WOULD BE DRIVEN BACK INTO THE SEA. THEY HAD TO PLUNGE THROUGH THE WITHERING FIRE THAT SWEEPED THE EXPOSED BEACH.

COME ON—
MAKE FOR THE
ROCKS!



The Brave And The Damned

HE REACHED THE FIRST LINE OF COVER, AND HIS BADLY HIT FIRST PLATOONS STAGGERED AFTER HIM.

PUT THAT JAP GUN POSITION OUT OF ACTION, MAJOR. OUR SECOND WAVE WILL BE ASHORE IN TEN MINUTES—I'M GOING TO CLEAR THE GROUND IN FRONT OF US.



WHILE THE MAJOR ENGAGED THE JAP GUN-CREW, SUMMERS PLUNGED ON, MAKING FOR THE TREES BEYOND THE BEACH.

IT'S A JAP RESERVE FORCE. THEY HAVEN'T SEEN US YET!





The Brave And The Damned

BY THE END OF THE DAY, SUMMERS HAD ESTABLISHED A BRIDGEHEAD. HE HAD A FOOTHOLD NOW FOR THE MAIN BATTLES IN THE TREACHEROUS FORESTS AND ON THE HILL-SLOPES OF TAKITI.

SIGNAL THE GENERAL:
'BEACH-HEAD HELD. PHASE
ONE COMPLETED. JAPS
FIGHTING HARD...'



ABOARD THE FLAGSHIP, SNAITH DID NOT EVEN APPEAR ON DECK WHILE THE FIGHTING GREW FIERCE ON THE ISLAND TWO MILES DISTANT ACROSS THE WATER.

COLONEL SUMMERS HAS ESTABLISHED AN H.Q. TWO MILES INLAND. EVERYTHING'S READY FOR WHEN YOU WANT TO GO ASHORE, SIR.



I DON'T NEED TO GO ASHORE. I CAN CONTROL THE BATTLE FROM HERE...

SNAITH WAS A CHANGED MAN. HIS STAFF COULD HARDLY RECOGNISE NOW THE TENSE, NERVOUS GENERAL AS THE RUTHLESS, SINGLE-MINDED LEADER THEY HAD KNOWN HIM ONCE TO BE.

IF ONLY I COULD GET RID OF THIS FEAR... I'M SAFE ABOARD SHIP. MITSUMO'S A MAN, NOT A DEVIL - WHATEVER HE LIKES TO CALL HIMSELF.



AS SUMMERS FOUGHT HIS WAY DOGGEDLY INLAND, SNAITH BECAME ALMOST A RECLUSE IN HIS ROOM ABOARD SHIP. THEN, ONE EVENING, A RADIO BULLETIN RINGED THE WORLD...



ALL THE NEXT DAY, THE RADIO REPORTED THE SURRENDER OF VARIOUS UNITS OF THE JAPANESE FORCES. BUT EVEN IN HIS JUBILATION, GENERAL SNAITH MEANT TO TAKE NO CHANCES WITH HIS OWN PARTICULAR ENEMY...



FIFTEEN MILES AWAY, MITSUMO HAD SUMMONED HIS LIEUTENANTS TO HIS SECRET HEADQUARTERS - AN UNDERGROUND GALLERY IN THE CATACOMBS WHERE TAKITI TRIBESMEN BURIED THEIR DEAD.



The Brave And The Damned

MITSUMO STRODE OUT OF THE WARREN OF CAVES, BECKONING TO ONE OF HIS OFFICERS. IN THE SUNSHINE, THE MAIN PART OF HIS FORCE WAS ENCAMPED.



MITSUMO HAD WORKED OUT THE PLAN A WEEK BEFORE — AS SOON AS HE HAD FIRST REALISED THAT JAPAN WAS BOUND TO BE DEFEATED.



MITSUMO WAS SATISFIED, AND THE JAPANESE MADE THEIR FINAL PREPARATIONS — HOGAWA DRESSED IN THE CEREMONIAL STYLE OF A FULL COLONEL OF THE EMPEROR'S ARMY.

THE ENGLISH FOOLS WILL NOT SUSPECT THE PLAN. AT THE RIGHT MOMENT WE SHALL FALL UPON THEM — NEVER SHALL WE SURRENDER...



TWO HOURS LATER THE INSCRUTABLE LIEUTENANT, SAYING THAT HE WAS MITSUMO, SURRENDERED HIS SWORD WITH DIGNITY.



The Brave And The Damned

THE JAP SURRENDER COMMISSION WAS SEARCHED FOR ARMS, AND ESCORTED ABOARD SHIP. SNAITH WATCHED WARILY FROM THE BRIDGE. AS SOON AS HE SAW THE MAN HE TOOK TO BE MITSUMO, RELIEF FLOODED THROUGH HIM.



THREE DAYS LATER, WHEN THE FORMER JAPANESE POSITIONS HAD BEEN TAKEN OVER BY THE BRITISH, SNAITH WENT ASHORE. A WAR-TORN, HARBOUR-TOWN HOTEL WAS TO BE HIS HEADQUARTERS.

I WANT THE ISLAND CLEANED UP WITHIN A WEEK, SUMMERS. PUT A GUARD ON THE P.O.W. COMPOUND, AND THEN MAKE A SWEEP OF ALL AREAS FOR MINES AND ARMS STORES.



IT WAS LATE THE FOLLOWING AFTERNOON, WHEN SUMMERS HAD STARTED OFF ON HIS SEARCH OF THE ISLAND, THAT SNAITH REALISED SOMETHING HAD GONE SERIOUSLY WRONG.



WHO FIRED THOSE SHOTS? IF THE P.O.W.s ARE RAISING TROUBLE, I'LL MAKE THEM SORRY FOR THEMSELVES.

IT IS JAPANESE SOLDIERS. THEY'RE ATTACKING THE CAMP GUARDS!

SNAITH STORMED TO THE SIGNAL QUARTERS, AND SENT RECALL MESSAGES TO THE COMPANIES HE HAD DESPATCHED INLAND.



TWO HUNDRED JAP SOLDIERS HAVE COME OUT FROM SOME HIDING PLACE, GENERAL. THEY'VE RELEASED THE JAP PRISONERS IN THE COMPOUND AND ARE HEADING THIS WAY.

GET ALL AVAILABLE TROOPS TO STAND TO!

APART FROM ONE GENERAL PURPOSES DETACHMENT, THE ONLY TROOPS SNAITH COULD SEND AGAINST THE JAPS WERE CLERKS, COOKS AND RADIO-OPERATORS . . .



SOMEBODY'S GOING TO ANSWER FOR LEAVING THIS HEADQUARTERS TO BE DEFENDED BY THAT CROWD OF MISFITS.

THEY WERE HIS OWN ORDERS - BUT HE'LL FIND SOMEBODY TO BLAME...

The Brave And The Damned

SNAITH ORDERED HIS MAIN FORCE TO OCCUPY THE NEAREST BUILDINGS, TO DEFEND HIS HOTEL HEADQUARTERS.

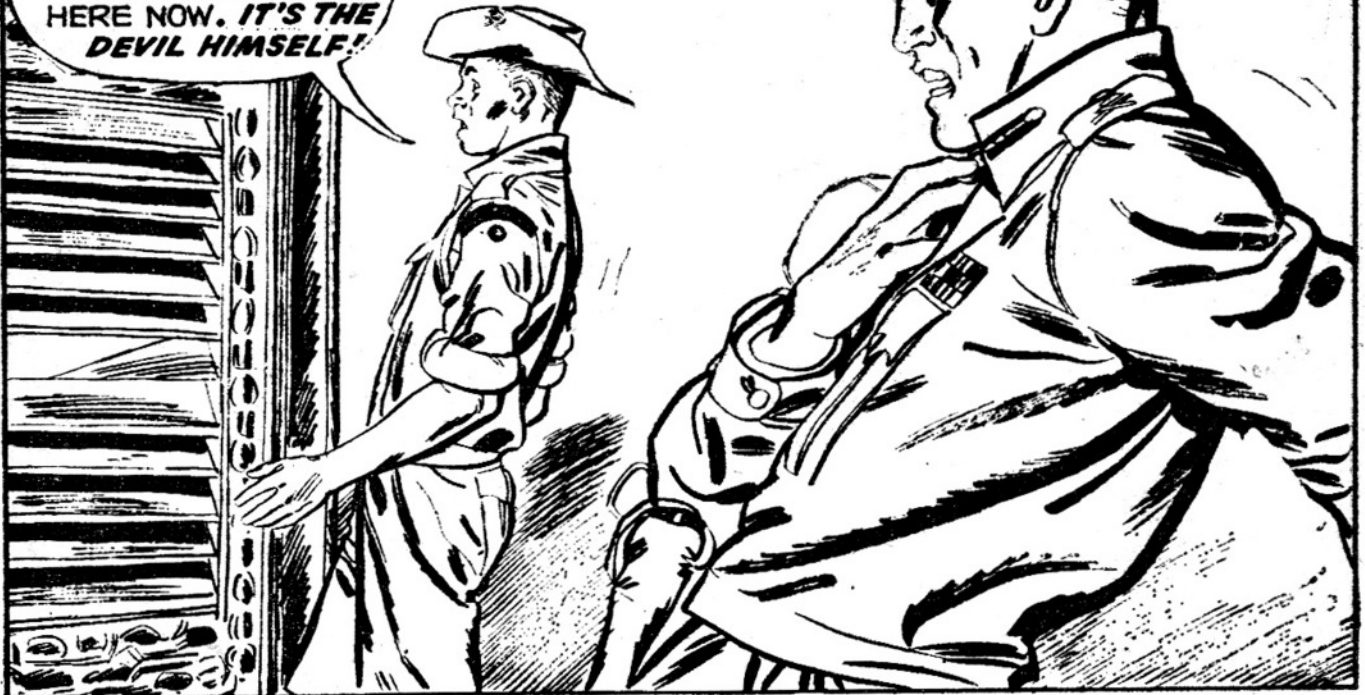


SNAITH HELPED TO BREAK OPEN BOXES OF AMMUNITION, AS THE FIERCE RATTLE OF FIRING NEARED THE HOTEL. NOW THE YELLS OF TRIUMPHANT JAPS COULD BE HEARD.



BUT THE COLD HAND OF PANIC GRIPPED SNAITH AS HE HEARD THE BAYING OF THE HUMAN HUNTERS OUTSIDE.

THAT /S MITSUMO!
WHOEVER IT WAS
SURRENDERED TO US,
THE REAL MITSUMO IS
HERE NOW. *IT'S THE
DEVIL HIMSELF!*



CLAMMY WITH FEAR, SNAITH TURNED LIKE A HUNTED ANIMAL AS THE DOOR BURST OPEN AND A SHOT RANG OUT.



The Brave And The Damned

ECHOING DOWN THE YEARS, HE SEEMED TO HEAR AGAIN THE LOW VOICE OF A TUNISIAN ARAB CALLING HIM TO HIS DESTINY, BECKONING HIM TO HIS DEATH...

YOU KNOW ME?
I AM MITSUMO—THE
ONE THEY CALL THE DEVIL.
I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR
YOU, GENERAL!

NO!

SNAITH TRIED TO RAISE HIS PISTOL, BUT HIS HAND WAS NERVELESS. ALL HE COULD DO WAS TO STARE, FASCINATED, AT THE BRUTAL FIGURE WHO TOOK COOL AND DELIBERATE AIM AT HIM.

YOUR TROOPS
ARE RETURNING
FROM THE HILLS,
GENERAL—BUT FOR
YOU THEY WILL
RETURN TOO
LATE!



The Brave And The Damned

THERE WAS NO SIGN OF MITSUMO WHEN SUMMERS AND ANOTHER OFFICER BURST INTO THE HOTEL. BUT THEY SAW SNAITH . . .

THE JAPS ARE ROUTED, GENERAL. ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS CAPTURE THE LEADER, MITSUMO.

WAIT—
THE GENERAL'S DEAD—STONE DEAD!



THEY MOVED THE FALLEN CHAIR, AND SNAITH'S BODY SLITHERED TO THE FLOOR.

THERE'S NO MARK ON HIM, COLONEL SUMMERS—NOTHING TO SHOW HOW HE DIED.

SNAITH'S MEN SAID THAT ONLY THE DEVIL HAD THE POWER TO SCARE HIM—AND I'LL SWEAR SNAITH DIED OF FRIGHT...



THE BRIGADE HAD THE JAPANESE RISING UNDER CONTROL BEFORE NIGHT FELL . BUT THEY SEARCHED THE ISLAND FOR A WEEK WITHOUT FINDING MITSUMO .

THE NATIVES SAY MITSUMO WAS SEEN GOING BACK INTO THE CAVES WITH A FEW OF HIS MEN .

ALL RIGHT, WE'LL SEARCH THE CATACOMBS...



BUT THE SEARCH WAS NEVER MADE. AT THAT MOMENT, THERE WAS A RUMBLING ROAR THAT SEEMED TO COME FROM THE HEART OF THE MOUNTAIN...

THAT'S THE END OF THE CATACOMBS — THE ONLY PLACE LEFT ON THE ISLAND WHERE MITSUMO COULD HAVE HIDDEN...



The Brave And The Damned

WHERE THE ENTRANCE TO THE CAVES HAD BEEN, THERE WAS NOW A SOLID MASS OF ROCKS, SEALING THE CATACOMBS FOR EVER.

SO THIS IS HOW IT ENDS — IN SMOKE AND FLAME — AND THE DEVIL CLAIMING HIS OWN...



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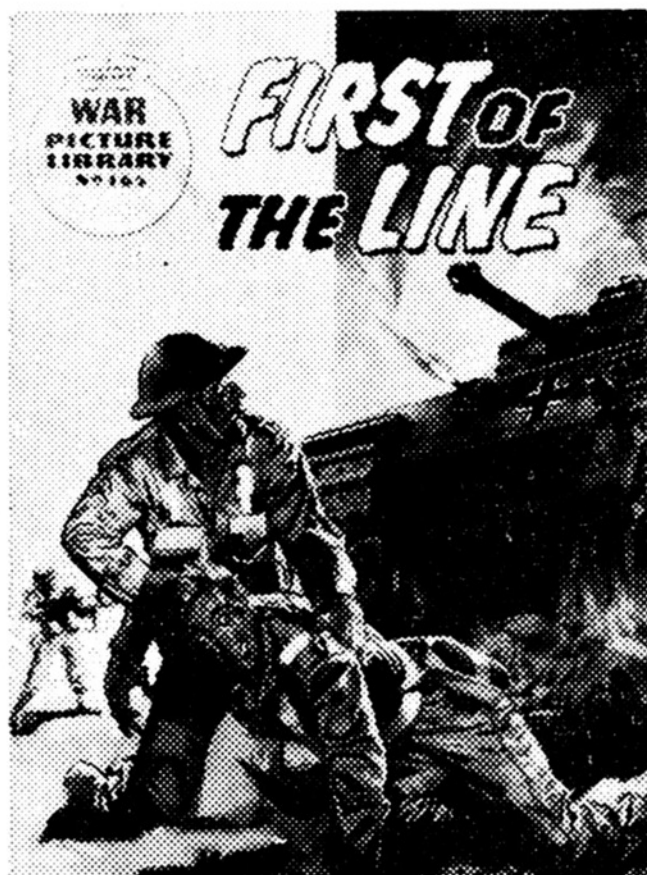
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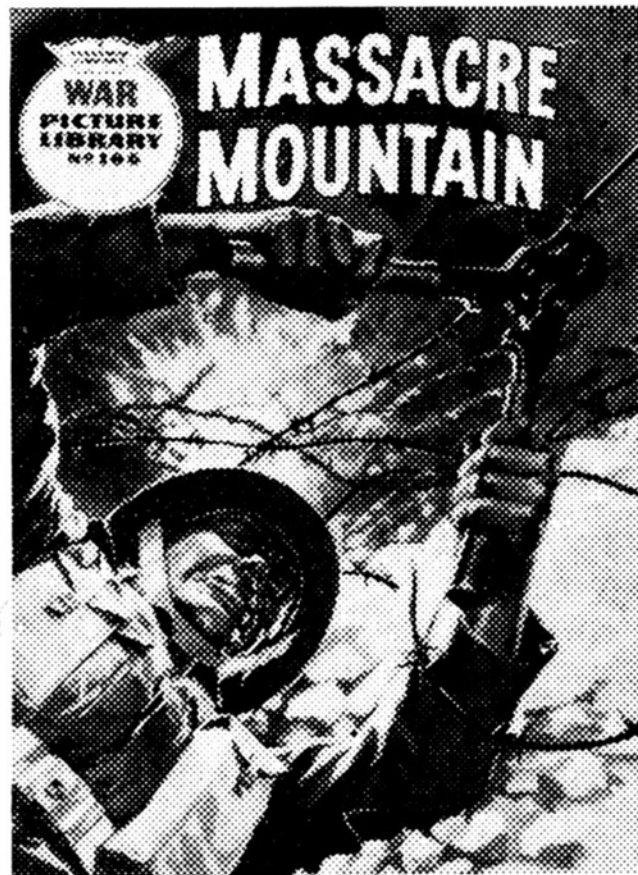
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